

March 6, 1974

Luedtke and Senator Cavanaugh. I know they're concerned and justified, justifiably so about this. But I want to give you an exact instance that happened in a case that I'm aware of. Where a young man owed many thousands of dollars to his children and I specified to the children. Now, during all of these years, he never once wondered how his ex-wife managed to get by, how his children got by. He came...he told me several times that he lost his job, that he'd been sick, he was able to go to all the football games. I saw him out many times in the evening, of course, I was out also, I agree to that, but noone, no one seems to be especially concerned about the fact that those of us who were married, if we get sick or we lose our job or if we, for some reason or other, have or suffer financial reverses and I think that Senator Epke and myself, Senator Burbach, have taken some lickings in the cattle market that might justify say to someone, someone else to support our children. If...this is not the case. They're our children. That's the point I want to make here. These children belong, they're the responsibility of the ex-husband. The court said you shall do this and this and this. And he has not done so. And we have had procedures which have provided supposedly remedies and in many cases, most cases, they have not worked. Now this is one additional step and as I said, you sometimes have to get the attention of the individual and I can tell you that this bill did get the attention of some individuals because I have received some comments, both by letter and by telephone, from individuals who are going to be affected. And I want to say that I think, I think, in my opinion, that this bill will do as much as any bill we have ever introduced into this Legislature to insure the prompt, accurate and regular payment of child support of any bill that has come before this Body. Because when you put these fellows afoot, when you say in effect you're going to drive to work and from work or in the nature of your work and nowhere else, you're going to do several things. First of all, you're going to stop them from chasing around and they're going to save money there. You're going to make them quite not so desirable to someone else who might want to be squired around and so they're going to save money on that point. Third of all, they're going to be getting their rest at night because they can't be out carousing around and so they're going to be able to go to work in the morning. Now, I talked to some people who hire young men who need to drive and I said how do you feel about the provisions. And they said bothers us not in the least...in fact, you...we wouldn't care if you took it away entirely because if he doesn't care enough about his children to pay that child support, then he is not going to care about a truck or a cab or a tractor. And so I say to you, we have many arguments, good ones, valid ones, more sophisticated ones than I can give you for not passing the law. But the question I leave in your mind is this....do you think the children deserve support? If you believe they deserve that support and if you believe the court was acting properly when it determined how much that support should be, then do you believe that any individual has the right to violate that court order. To violate that court order at their own discretion? If you say no, then you.....

(End of Belt 4A)